

events. I make that point because some Members of Congress—one, a Congressman from Virginia—suggest we can take the need for disaster funds out of the regular budget of the United States. I will tell you, it is virtually impossible, and we don't know what the final cost will be. At this point we expect it to be much more. We have to deal with these disasters and come to the aid of families and businesses, communities and States, as our State has been aided and almost every State has in the past.

A provision in the Budget Control Act allows Congress several billion dollars in emergency spending for additional FEMA aid without budget cuts elsewhere. We are going to have to get together on a bipartisan basis to deal with this. FEMA estimates that the request leaves the disaster fund short by \$2 billion to \$4.8 billion in the upcoming year. These figures do not take into account the most recent damage from Hurricane Irene, particularly in the State of Vermont and many other places. We need to work on a bipartisan basis to meet these needs for the disaster assistance all across America and put America back to work.

At this point I would like to yield the floor to my former remarks and engage in the closing script.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PETTY OFFICER TUMILSON

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, as an Iowan, it is with great sadness but also a sense of pride that I rise to pay tribute to Navy SEAL Jon T. Tumilson who gave his life for his country along with 29 other American heroes as the result of a helicopter crash in Afghanistan on August 6. He worked hard to get where he did and was extremely proud to have become a Navy SEAL. The people of the State of Iowa, and particularly his hometown of Rockford, are extremely proud to call him a native son.

Petty Officer Tumilson is described as someone who committed fully to everything he did and he applied that intense dedication to serving his country. We as a nation must be grateful that we have brave and selfless Americans like Jon Tumilson who are willing to undertake the incredible training necessary to become a Navy SEAL so that they can then put their lives on the line repeatedly in some of the most dangerous missions imaginable. Our country has lost a powerful force for good, and his fellow sailors have lost a brother in arms. Of course, his loss will be felt particularly deeply by his family, friends, and neighbors. My prayers go out to Jon's parents, George and

Kathy, and all those who are grieving. Nothing can compensate for his loss, but I hope they can take comfort in knowing that he died a true American hero. Jon Tumilson's memory will now join the honored ranks of those patriots who, since the Revolutionary War, have fought to defend American liberty.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER ROBERT REEVES

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a true American hero. On August 5, 2011, our State and Nation lost a great patriot when Navy SEAL CPO Robert Reeves, aged 32, died in Afghanistan during combat operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Chief Reeves was raised in Louisiana by his loving parents Jo and James Reeves, and he graduated from Caddo Magnet High School in Shreveport, LA, where he played both soccer and lacrosse.

After 1 year at LSU, Chief Reeves enlisted in the U.S. Navy and joined the SEALs in 1999. Since that time, he has been assigned to various SEAL teams where he made several combat deployments in support of the global war on terror, distinguishing himself in combat operations during 13 years of service in the U.S. Navy.

A decorated soldier, he served as a member of the Naval Special Warfare Development Group, or SEAL Team Six as it is more commonly known, and was the recipient of four Bronze Stars—earned for his bravery and meritorious service. He carried out his duties with pride and without reservation and each of us owes him our gratitude for his selfless sacrifice.

There is no doubt that this tragic loss will not only be felt within the Reeves family but also the Navy and the entire Nation. My deepest thoughts and prayers are with his family during this extraordinarily difficult time. Our Nation is safer and stronger because of brave heroes like Chief Reeves. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me as we honor the life of Navy SEAL CPO Robert Reeves and his legacy, as well as all the other brave men and women in our Armed Forces who have given the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great Nation.

CORDRAY NOMINATION

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise to speak in favor of Rich Cordray's nomination as Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and to urge a vote on his nomination.

The enactment of the Dodd-Frank law last Congress is a triumph for consumers. This landmark law reins in the abusive and predatory practices of bad actors in the financial industry and protects consumers through the creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

The CFPB will empower consumers by giving them the knowledge and tools they need to make responsible financial decisions and will level the playing field by policing and curtailing the unfair practices of some unscrupu-

lous banks and financial institutions. I applauded the creation of the CFPB and have heard from Connecticut residents who want the consumer protections that the CFPB will provide.

Last month, President Obama nominated former Ohio attorney general Rich Cordray to serve as the Director of the CFPB. This is an inspired choice. Rich has dedicated his career to protecting and educating consumers: he has vigorously pursued lenders that employed abusive and fraudulent foreclosure practices like robo-signing and he has repeatedly gone after financial institutions that weakened employees' pension funds by concealing material information from investors.

Recognizing that informed consumers are empowered consumers, Rich has also sought to improve financial literacy among Ohio residents by working to include personal finance education in Ohio schools.

Rich's nomination has been widely praised, even by those he has clashed with. Former Senator Mike DeWine, who ran against Rich for State attorney general last year, called Rich "very well-qualified for this job."

As Connecticut's attorney general, I worked alongside Rich, and I know he is a true consumer advocate and an outstanding nominee to lead this critical new agency.

Despite Rich's impressive background and qualifications, some of my colleagues are refusing to allow a confirmation vote on his nomination. They do this not because they doubt Rich's qualifications, but because they resent the agency he has been nominated to lead. Earlier this year, 44 Senators wrote President Obama and threatened to block any nominee for the CFPB until the agency's structure and authority was gutted. Now, they are following through on that threat.

This is a bad precedent. The CFPB was created by the Dodd-Frank law passed by the previous Congress and signed by President Obama. This legislation was not rushed through; it was debated for months and months, with members given plenty of time to criticize the bill, offer amendments, or vote no on the legislation. Eventually, the bill passed. Sixty Senators voted for it, including several who are now seeking to block the nominee for an agency they voted to create.

Some of my colleagues may not like the law or the CFPB. I respect that. But their course of action should be to introduce legislation to change the law, not to shirk their constitutional duty by refusing to allow a confirmation vote.

REMEMBERING DR. BERNADINE PATRICIA HEALY

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Bernadine Patricia Healy. Dr. Healy was a cardiologist and a pioneer in the